

# GERMANS OPEN ATTACK WEST OF FORT VAUX

Infantry Thrown Against  
French Lines South of  
Douaumont.

## FORT LOST AFTER TERRIFIC STRUGGLE

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
Paris, June 8.—Details of the capture of Fort Vaux by the Germans were received in Paris this afternoon. The fort had been cut off from the rest of the defensive line, so far as receiving reinforcements, ammunition or supplies was concerned, for five days and the garrison was exhausted by the continual fighting into which the Germans were forced to throw themselves. For some hours before the surrender the fort was cut off from all communication with the rear, even with the trenches only 300 yards in the rear.

The French still held the trenches to the right and left of the fort and the fort was not immediately in the rear of the rest of the line. All efforts of the Germans to break the French line in this region have failed.

Fort Vaux Held Out Seven Days.  
The afternoon communique was as follows:  
In the Argonne a German mine exploded this morning at Hill 255, at La Haye Chevauchee, but without causing any damage. We occupied the southern tip of the crater thereby created.

On the left bank of the Meuse there has been an intermittent bombardment of our second line positions. On the right bank of the river there has been intense fighting in the region of Thiaumont and Douaumont. After seven days of furious fighting against assaulting forces whose numbers were constantly renewed the French garrison at Fort Vaux reached the limit of its strength and was unable to prevent the enemy from occupying this position, which had been completely ruined by a furious bombardment. We held the immediate surroundings of the fort, as well as the trenches to the right and to the left of it. In front of these every stratagem delivered by the enemy has been repulsed.

The night passed in relative quiet on the remainder of the front, excepting at Hartmannswillerkopf, where the artillery fighting continues with activity. The Germans directed their attention today to the sector of the Thiaumont farm, southwest of Fort Vaux, where they directed successive attacks under cover of the heavy artillery fire against the French lines on both sides of the farm. All these attacks broke down under the French fire.

Big Guns Still Active.  
The official communique issued by the War Office to-night follows:  
On the left bank of the Meuse the artillery activity was maintained with intensity on the night of May 31 and June 1 in the region of Chateauvaut.

On the right bank the enemy, after a violent bombardment, directed successive attacks on our positions. All the attacks failed under our barrier fire and the fire of our mitrailleuses.

There was a violent cannonade in the region west of Pont-a-Mousson and intermittent cannonading on the rest of the front.

Fort Vaux had been practically held for ninety days before it fell. Paris newspapers estimate that it cost the Germans 100,000 men to capture the fort.

Cut Off From Help.  
When the situation became critical a week ago the commandant, Chief of Battalion Reynard, a tried soldier who had risen from the ranks, had hardly more than a thousand men with whom to continue the defense. His task was to hold the half ruined fort against overwhelming masses of infantry, supported by more than a hundred batteries of heavy guns. Reinforcements could not reach him owing to the terrible difficulty of the German fire.

For a week, alone and unaided, he and his men held out against 20,000 assaults. Two companies of Germans were already installed in a ditch of the northern bastion, and after three days the position had to be abandoned by the French.

Reynard then withdrew to the central bastion. He was still able to communicate with the main body, and some of the last messages sent was that whatever happened he would never surrender. He kept his word. Step by step the Germans advanced, but the French, gradually narrowing the circle surrounding the fort.

Messengers Volunteered.  
Evening light Reynard dispatched volunteers to the German lines to negotiate the terms of the progress of events. Not one in five of these messengers got through.

A German network yesterday morning an officer from the French lines managed in the darkness to crawl through the German position and reach the redoubt where Reynard was still holding out. The German artillery was still pounding incessantly at the roofs of the vaults, where the garrison had taken refuge.

Reynard succeeded in returning to the French lines and reported the desperate condition of the survivors.

The fighting of the two previous days had been awful. Whole German regiments at one stage tried to advance against the western bastion, where two batteries of field pieces were posted. They were met with a point blank fire and annihilated. One company climbed within sixty yards of the guns, but could get no further. Several German battalions were repulsed only after violent hand-to-hand fighting.

When at last the assailants reached the principal entry they were met by a counter attack, the garrison making use of their rifle butts, knives and fists, and even their steel helmets, which they

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held by the strap and swung like maces. The Germans employed lacrymogen shells, bombs and liquid fire throwers in great numbers.

Each by each the beleaguered defenders recoiled, and when at last, worn out by seven days watching and fighting, they were incapable of further effort, fresh enemy troops rushed the fort and captured the handful of heroes who remained.

Nothing is known yet of the fate of Chief of Battalion Reynard, who was gassed on Tuesday, a commander of the Legion of Honor for his gallant defense. He has been wounded several times in the present war.

Seven days of terrific bombardment, added to many previous periods of bombardment of less intensity, had reduced the fort to little more than a ruin. Its possession is still a matter of importance to the German operations, however, because of the height which it crowns and from which it had been able to sweep the ravine to the north as well as the slopes of the Meuse heights to the east.

Although the position, so far as natural defenses were concerned, was one of the most difficult to attack on this bank of the river, it was selected by the Germans in preference to other points of less natural strength because, from its position on the extreme east of the line, it received the least support from the flanking batteries on the other bank.

Facing the Germans on the right bank of the river is the line from Froide Terre to the forts of Souville and Tannieres, both situated on heights of great natural strength.

Artillery Duels On.  
Great Activity of Guns on Verdun Front Reported.  
BERLIN, via London, June 8.—Only artillery fighting, but that of the most violent character, is reported from the Verdun front, where the forces of the Crown Prince are now in possession of Fort Vaux.

The official statement issued by the War Office to-night says:  
The artillery duel on both sides of the Meuse (Verdun front) continued with unabated fury.

Fighting at Vimy.  
British Explode Six Mines Between Ridge and Canal.  
Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

London, June 8.—The following report from the British War Office to-night was issued to-night by the official press bureau:  
The principal activity of the last twenty-four hours was between the Vimy Ridge and La Bassée Canal, with particular activity in mining. Six mines and canisters were exploded with results generally in our favor. The Hohenzollern redoubt, the explosion of a mine considerably damaged the hostile defenses, and after the explosion our snipers accounted for more than a hundred of the enemy. There was a good deal of trench mortar activity. Along the whole sector the artillery on both sides was active.

Just south of La Bassée Canal we made a successful raid last night, inflicting losses. The enemy garrison of the raided trenches fled, leaving some dead.

The situation at Hooge is unchanged. There was no infantry action today. The artillery duel on both sides was intermittent to-day and last night.

Elsewhere on the front there was no special incident. The day was quiet.

BRITISH LINE HOLDS.  
Ottawa Hears Germans Have Begun  
Gigantic Offensive.

OTTAWA, June 8.—Three complete Canadian divisions are now in action against the Germans around Hooge Village, according to cable advices received here by Gen. Sir Sam Hughes to-night.

The cablegrams state that the Germans are pressing their successes at Vimy Ridge, in pressing colors to the Vimy Ridge, and that the British or Canadian lines have broken.

From the advices he has received Gen. Hughes is of the opinion that the Germans have begun a gigantic offensive against the British front. Canadian losses are believed to have been exceedingly heavy.

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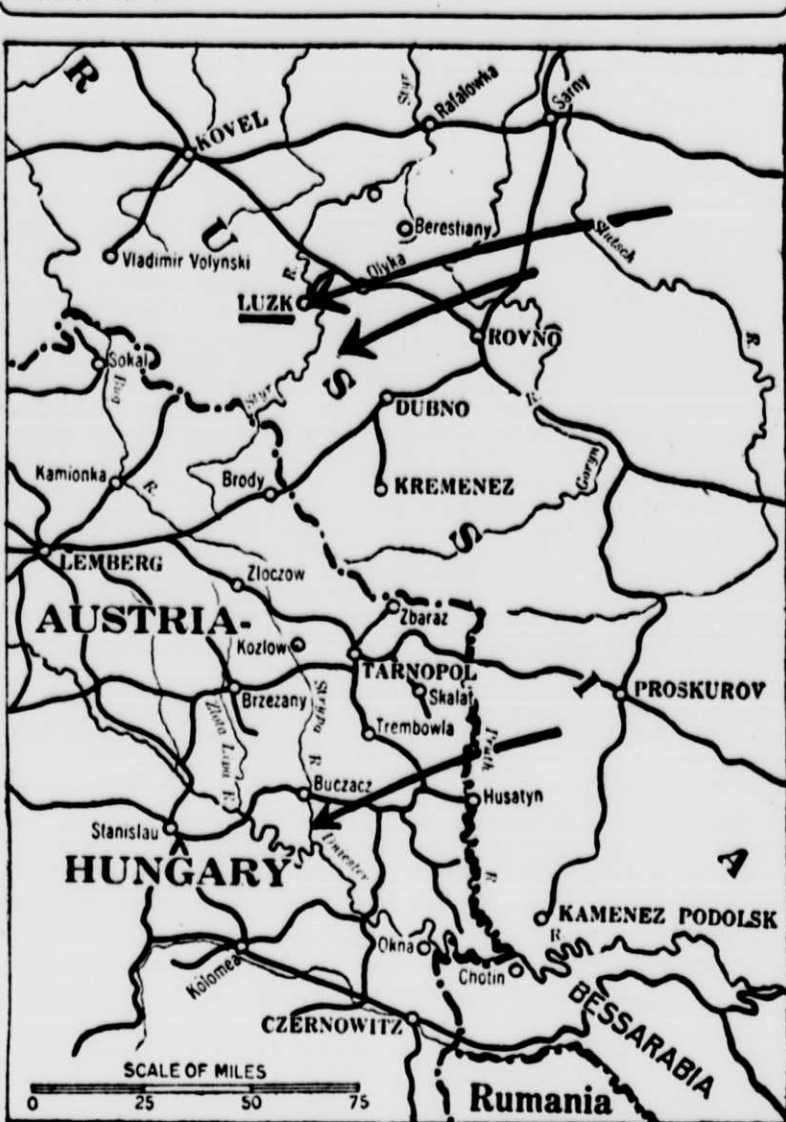
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THE capture of Lutsk or Lutzk (underlined on the map) menaces the entire Austrian line north of Galicia. Lutsk stands at one corner of the Volhynian fortress triangle, the other two points being Dubno and Rovno, the latter of which has never been taken from the Russians. The Austrians, it is said, have already retreated about twenty-five miles. In southern Galicia the Czar's troops have broken the Austrian line on the lower Strypa a short distance north of the Dniester River.



## CAPTURE OF LUTSK BRINGS GALICIA NEAR TO INVASION

Continued from First Page.  
hands three times, falling last into Russian hands on October 1.

The fortress lies half way between Rovno and Kovel, on the important railway line that runs from Kovel to the region southwest of Kiev. It is this railway sector, between Rovno and Kovel, that has been the objective of the Russian attack since the Teuton offensive came to a standstill eight months ago, for its control would give the Russians a free hand to operate southward against the lines in Galicia.

Without holding Lutsk the Austrians will have a hard task maintaining themselves in the smaller Volhynian fortresses to the south. The railway line, which has fallen the road is open to the Czar's forces for another invasion of western Galicia. Such an invasion, if accompanied by the capture of Lutsk, would present a formidable menace to the whole southernmost Austro-Hungarian front, as it would threaten it with being cut off or driven to the north into the hands of the army invading Galicia.

The town and district of Lutsk are of little commercial importance. Lutsk is a small town, with a population of about 40,000, but since the Polish war in the last half of the nineteenth century it has steadily declined.

WON BY ARTILLERY.  
Russians Able to Use Guns on Scale Heretofore Impossible.

PETROGRAD, via London, June 8.—Newspaper correspondents were dismissed from the Russian front on the night of May 31 and June 1. Consequently no independent accounts are arriving here, but stories told by wounded prisoners supplement to some extent the official communique, without, however, adding anything of great consequence.

Emphasis continues to be laid upon the immunity of the Russian artillery, which maintained a violent continuous fire, smashing the successive rows of entanglements, breastworks and trenches. Nothing resembling this action has been seen on the Russian side hitherto.

It is stated that the Russians have broken Gen. von Linington's left wing along a front of 100 miles and placed the front of Count von Bothmer and Gen. Pfauzer in many places.

A successful flanking movement enabled an enfilade and cut off large forces far behind the Austrian front positions. Gen. Brusiloff seems to have at his disposal an immense infantry force, which he sends forward in rapid, successive waves after artillery preparation.

Reserves are brought up so quickly that the enemy is given no time to recover from one assault before another is delivered.

On the Caucasus front in the center the enemy tried to take a height that was in our hands. Our reserve drove him off by bayonet attack and forced him into his old positions. The first line position was captured. Our position in the center is clearing the hospitals at Lemberg and removing staff offices thence. They are also reported to be

MAJOR C. W. STEWART KILLED.  
New York Man Resigned From  
U. S. Army to See Fighting.

C. P. Stewart of 26 Exchange place, New York, yesterday received a telegram informing him that Major Charles Stewart, commanding the Tenth Canadian Battalion in Flanders, was killed in action last Saturday.

Major Stewart was the son of the late Henry Stewart of New York. He was born in Montreal on January 4, 1880. At the outbreak of the war he was serving as First Lieutenant in the Fifth United States Cavalry, a position to which he had been promoted from the ranks, but resigned "to go where the fighting was real." He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati and a member of the New York Athletic Club. He is survived by a wife and two children, who are at present in Polkston, England.

NEW POLISH RELIEF OFFER.  
German Believes, However, That  
Britain Will Not Accept It.

BERLIN, via London, June 8.—New proposals concerning relief work in Poland containing the utmost concessions which Germany feels that she can make have been given to Ambassador Gerard. It is believed in Germany that the proposals for relief work by an American commission in Poland are accepted by the German army will not be accepted by Great Britain. That nation, it is declared, will refuse the proposals and approach Germany for her attitude toward the question.

British Forbid Wool Sales.  
Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
London, June 8.—An army order has been issued prohibiting the purchase or sale of British or Irish wool during the 1916 season.

Irish Unionists Fight Chance.  
Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
London, June 8.—The Irish Unionist Alliance has adopted a resolution to the effect that the present time is inopportune for any large change in the Government of Ireland, as that would encourage the secession of the element and imperil Ireland and the empire. It is absolutely necessary, the resolution says, that martial law be continued for some time.

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## ROME CONFIDENT INVASION IS OVER

Officials Say All Danger of  
Great Austrian Advance  
Is at an End.

### FIERCE FIGHT AT ASIAGO

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

Rome, June 8.—Semi-official assurance was given to the correspondent of The Sun to-day that the menace of an Austrian invasion has been averted. In spite of the occupation of Monte Cengio the Austrians are unable to debouch in the valleys, where they are moved down by Italian machine guns, while Austrian infantry attacks are checked by the Italian artillery.

The pressure on the Italian centre is gradually diminishing. The Austrians are using their infantry less and it is probable that reinforcements are already being hurried to the Russian front.

The official statement issued by the Italian War Office to-night follows:  
In the upper Val Tellina (northwest of Trento) our Alpine extended their occupation of the heights of the Ortler Pass, Camosci, 3,199 meters in altitude; Volantini, 3,042 meters in altitude; 3,552 meters, between the Capanna Hoch, 3,250 meters.

In the Chiese Valley (northwest of Lake Garda) an enemy detachment attacked our post at Scordace, above Dozono. We counterattacked and dispersed the enemy.

In the Adige Valley zone there was an artillery duel.

Enemy heavy calibre artillery shelled our positions south of Camerata and Pissino yesterday.

Our artillery dispersed enemy groups north of Marco, in the Lagarina Valley, and in the area of the Capanna Hoch, 3,250 meters.

Along the Posina-Astico front there was intermittent artillery activity.

On the Sette Comuni plateau the battle rages along the whole front.

On the evening of June 6, after an intense artillery preparation, the enemy made repeated attacks against our positions south and south west of Asiago. The action, raging fiercely throughout the night of June 6-7 ended yesterday morning with the defeat of the enemy. Our forces, after a day of the most strenuous fighting, renewed their violent efforts against the centre and right wing of our positions. Preceded by the usual intense bombardment, the enemy made repeated attacks against our positions south and south west of Asiago. The action, raging fiercely throughout the night of June 6-7 ended yesterday morning with the defeat of the enemy. Our forces, after a day of the most strenuous fighting, renewed their violent efforts against the centre and right wing of our positions. Preceded by the usual intense bombardment, the enemy made repeated attacks against our positions south and south west of Asiago. 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